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"On April 30, when first seen, the tail was about 4° in length, the nucleus very distinct from the coma, of the brightness of a star between 3d and 4th mag. On May 2 the *distinct* part of the tail had diminished to 1° 30′ in length, the brightness of the nucleus having diminished to that of a star of the 6th mag. It afterwards kept diminishing, and was last seen on the 17th, only by the aid of a good 2-foot telescope, of about 20 magnifying power, in a perfectly clear sky. Between the 12th and 17th the nights were cloudy.

"The distances have all been carefully corrected for refraction.

"Our position is, lat. 34° 32′ 30″ S; long. 58° 18′ 0″ W.

"*H.M.S. Centaur, Buenos Ayres,*
May 21, 1853."

(*Extract of a Letter from A. H. Gardner, Esq., Commander of H.M. Sloop Waterwitch, to Rear-Admiral Sir Francis Beaufort.*)

"When approaching Loando in her Majesty's sloop, under my command, on the 30th April, a comet was seen clearly by the naked eye, continued visible during the passage over to St. Helena, and was last seen near that island on the 14th inst. It was also seen, but not accurately observed, at St. Helena, as well as on board several merchant vessels. As no notice of its approach is given in the *Nautical Almanac*, and as it could not be seen in our country, I have thought an account of it might be interesting to you. The inclosed paper is by Mr. Vine, master's assistant, who first perceived the comet.

"*H.M. Sloop Waterwitch, Ascension, May* 31, 1853."

Observations of Comet II. 1853. By Mr. W. W. Vine.

"On April 30, 1853, about 7 p.m., I observed a comet bearing W. by S. (true), about 10° above the horizon. Its distance from *Sirius*, 37° 41′ 15″; from *Aldebaran*, 28° 38′ 0″. Its tail was 3° 15′ long, and pointed in the direction of *Canopus*. Our latitude at the time of observation was 8° 40′ S.; longitude, 12° 38′ E.

"On May 1st, comet visible, but not so bright as on the previous night, but its altitude about 13° higher. Distance from *Sirius*, 24° 45′ 20″; *Canopus*, 39° 50′ 30″; tail 3° long, and pointing in the same direction as before at St. Paul's de Loando.

"On May 2d, comet much decreased in size and brightness. Distance from *Sirius*, 16° 14′ 50″; *Canopus*, 39° 50′ 30″. Latitude, 8° 40′ S.; longitude 13° 0′ E. at time of observation.

"On May 3d, distance from *Sirius*, 10° 33′ 50″; *Canopus*, 38° 24′ 30″. Visible to the naked eye. Latitude, 8° 35′ S.; longitude, 12° 40′ E.

"On May 4th, comet in the constellation of *Canis Majoris*. I saw a star of (about) the sixth magnitude through its tail distinctly. Distance from *Sirius*, 6° 38′ 30″; *Canopus*, 38° 24′ 30″. Latitude, 8° 30′ S.; longitude, 12° 0′ E.

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"On May 5th, distance from *Sirius*, 3° 59′ 0″; from β *Canis Majoris*, 4° 21′ 30″. Latitude, 8° 35′ S.; longitude, 10° 30′ E.

"On May 6th, distance from *Sirius*, 2° 31′ 30″; from β *Canis Majoris*, 5° 46′ 20″. Very indistinctly seen. Latitude, 8° 20′ S.; longitude, 8° 35′ E.

"On May 7th, comet not bright enough to get its position with a sextant. It continued visible until the 15th, when we lost sight of it. We were then in latitude 13° 25′ S.; longitude, 3° 30′ W. I determined its position by right ascension and declination for fifteen nights, the time it remained visible, taking my observations at 7 P.M. (ship time). Its path through the heavens was E. ¼ S. (nearly).

Observed Right Ascension and Declination of the Comet from April 30th to May 7th, at 7 P.M. (ship time).

Date.	R.A.	Change of R.A. in 24 hours.	Decl. S.	Change of Decl. in 24 hours.
	h m s	m s	° ′ ″	° ′ ″
April 30	4 4 3	+52 29	11 50 28	+1 35 32
May 1	4 56 32	35 16	13 26 0	0 33 30
2	5 31 48	23 36	13 59 30	0 14 0
3	5 55 24	16 16	14 13 30	0 1 45
4	6 11 40	12 50	14 15 15	0 0 45
5	6 24 30	8 30	14 16 0	+0 0 30
6	6 33 0	7 0	14 16 30	No change.

Mr. Vine's observations extend to the 14th of May. They do not, however, indicate any sensible change in declination after the 6th of that month.

Observations of Comet II., 1853. By Thomas Maclear, Esq.

"After some days of clouded weather, a comet was detected with the naked eye, in right ascension $4^h\ 58^m$, north polar distance 103° 25′, on the evening of Sunday the 1st instant. The nucleus about equal in brilliancy to a star of the 4th mag. The tail about 4° in length, inclined 118° from the north, reckoned as in measuring double stars, and one-sided with respect to the nucleus.

"The nucleus fan-shaped under a high power.

"The sky was covered on the 2d. On the 3d, the right ascension was $5^h\ 59^m$, north polar distance 104° 11′; and on the 4th, $6^h\ 13^m$, and 104° 15′ respectively.

"The nucleus was still pretty bright on the 9th, though nigh invisible to the naked eye. Last night all trace of the tail had vanished, the right ascension $7^h\ 16^m\frac{1}{2}$, north polar distance 103° 12′.

"The weather has permitted seventeen observing nights out of twenty-three. The comparisons with stars near the path have been made with the spider-line micrometer attached to the 8½-foot

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